(b) if so, what are the elaborate details thereof;

(c) whether the letters dated 28.3.1998 and 8.6.1998 of the Members of Parliament in this regard have been received by the Head Office;

(d) if so, what are the details of the action taken on these letters; and

(e) whether Government have got these letters examined?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The allegations made by the employee Shri C.L. Verma have been found lacking in substance. This was indicated in fulfillment of the assurance given in response to Question No. 1189 answered on 25 July, 1996.

(c) to (e) The Banking Division, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance has received letters dated 28.3.98 from Shri Baburao Paranjpe, MP (Lok Sabha) and dated 8.6.98 from Shri Shiv Charan Singh, MP (Rajya Sabha) addressed to Prime Minister containing inter-alia the grievance of the concerned employee that the order of the head office dated 4.10.94 has been reversed by the Regional Office, New Delhi in July 1997. The Head Office of the bank has since clarified to the Banking Division that their order dated 4 October, 1994 was not reversed.

Forfeiture of Property Acquired by Corrupt Public Servants

360. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it a fact that in a landmark judgement in 1996, the Supreme Court directed that a law providing forfeiture of property acquired by public servants through corrupt and illegal means should be passed immediately;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Law Commission in its 15th Report has made a similar recommendation; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and by when a law on the subject is likely to be passed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTIRES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The Supreme Court in its judgement delivered on May 6, 1996 had observed that a law providing for forfeiture of properties acquired by holders of 'public offices' by indulging in corrupt and illegal acts and deals was a crying necessity in the present state of our society.

(b) The Law Commission of India by its letter dated 4.2.1999 forwarded its 166th Report on "The Corrupt Public Servants (Forfeiture of Property) Bill" to the Ministry of Law, Justice & Company Affairs who laid the Report on the table of the Rajya Sabha on 28th October, 1999.

(c) No final view has been taken by the Government on the issue.

UNDP's Report on Governance in India

361. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "India Pakistan poorly governed nations" appearing in the News time dated 3rd November, 1999;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto, especially the charge made in the report, prepared by United Nations Development programme (UNDP) that ruling elite in India is very powerful and non-accountable which creates severe bottlenecks in the development process; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to root out corruption and poor governance as alleged in the said report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL , PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Making the administration corruption free, accountable, transparent and more effective has been on the agenda of the Government. Policies, in this regard, have been formulated and are being continuously monitored and, wherever necessary, modified in order to make them more effective and responsive to the needs of a changing environment.

The work of the Central Government in the field of combating corruption in public administration has been considerably stepped up during the last few years. The Annual Action Plan prepared by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions envisages three-pronged strategy comprising preventive vigilance, surveillance an